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6-30 Co-Author Participates in Reading of His Play in Baltimore

Frank Blocker, one of the authors of *Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait & Tackle*, a comedy which was first introduced in Atlanta in the 1990's, will reprise the role he played in the original production in a staged reading of the show this Saturday night at the Audrey Herman Spotlighters' Theatre in Baltimore. The reading will feature MaryAnn Walsh as Eula Mae, former rodeo champion who now operates a country store in Alabama, while Blocker and Will Trace play all the other characters who wander into the store. The reading is a fund-raiser for both the Spotlighters Theatre and Creative Mechanics theater company of New York. The suggested donation is $10.

6-29 One Act Play Festival Award Recipients Announced

The winners of this year's One-Act Play Festival sponsored by the community theater association NVTA (formerly the Northern Virginia Theatre Association but now expanded to include Washington and Maryland companies) were announced at the completion of the two-weekend festival at the Reston Community Center. *Bitter Sauce*, a comedy by Eric Bogosian performed by Castaways Repertory Theatre, was named Best Overall Production. Named Best Production of an Original Play went to Reston Community Players for *Harvest Moon*, and original drama by Deb Crawford. Here are the individual winners:

- Deb Crawford and Herb Tax - Judges Discretionary Award for Original Score - *Harvest Moon* - Reston Community Players
- Ellen Cribs - Best Actress - *Lovers* - Pied Piper Theatre
- Stephen LaRocque - Judges Discretionary Award for Original Script - *Perfectly Good Airplanes* - Silver Spring Stage
- Nicholas Ruley - Best Supporting Actor - *The Perfect Son* - Castaways Repertory Theatre
- Ted Schneider - Best Actor - *Perfectly Good Airplanes* - Silver Spring Stage
- Sarah Daisy Split - Best Supporting Actress - *Blackmail* - Rockville Little Theatre
- Mary Ann Sullivan - Best Director - *Bitter Sauce* - Castaways Repertory Theatre
- In addition, the judges gave a Judges Discretionary Award to the ensemble of the Tapestry Theatre Company for their work on *The Guys.*

6-28 Last of Library of Congress Movie Musical Series Screens Penzance Tonight

The Library of Congress' series of movie musicals ends tonight with a free screening of the 1983 film capturing the legendary New York Shakespeare Festival production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Pirate King is Kevin Kline and Mabel is Linda Ronstadt. Added to the cast from the original production is Angela Lansbury as Ruth. The screening will be at 7 this evening in the Mary Pickford Theater. For reservations call (202) 707-5677. The theater, which seats only 60, is located in the James Madison building of the Library at the corner of First Street and Independence Avenue on Capitol Hill.

6-27 Kennedy Center's Summer Student Intensives Participants Announced

Each summer the Kennedy Center brings college students from around the country to Washington to work in an intensive series of projects in theatrical arts and techniques alongside such noted professionals as playwrights Lee Blessing and Marsha Norman, set designer Ming Cho Lee, and director Eric Schaeffer. Over fifty participants will attend this year, fourteen of them are fellowship winners:

- Scenic Design Fellow Darrin Brooks, Utah State University
- Costume Design Fellow Jan McCauley - Indiana University/Purdue University - Fort Wayne
- Sound Design Fellow William Burns - Sam Houston State University
- Ten-Minute Play Fellow A. E. Edwards - University of Arkansas
- Dell'Arte/Mad River Festival Fellow Ricardo Ferreiro - Suffolk County Community College
- Fight Directors Fellow Rusty Tennant - University of New Orleans
- Margolis Method Selectees Eric Riedmann and Jackie Mickel - Western Washington University
- Kingley Colton Best Partner Award winner Edward Lynn Davis II - University of Central Florida
- VASTA Award for Vocal Excellence winner Desmond Newson - University of Central Florida
- Mark Twain Prize for Comic Performance winner Michele L. Egerton - Fitchburg State University
- SSD&C Student Director Award winner Halina Ujda - Brooklyn College
- Kennedy Center Ten-Minute Play Award winner Emily Hawe - New York University
- Dell'Arte/Kennedy Center Diversity Scholarship recipient Clarence Leonard, Jr. - Franklin Pierce College

6-24 Bard-37 Readings of All Shakespeare's Plays Enters Final Phase

The Washington Shakespeare Company's Bard-37 project of staged readings of all of Shakespeare's plays which began in November with *Henry IV*, Part II is heading into the final phase with a summer program of the last eleven plays. Holly Twyford will be featured in the reading of *Measure for Measure* this Sunday at 7:30 while Cam Magee will star in *Timon of Athens* on Tuesday. Here's the line up for the balance of the plays:

- July 5 - *King Lear*
- July 31 - *Antony and Cleopatra*
- August 2 - *Macbeth*
- August 7 - *Pericles*
- August 9 - *Coriolanus*
- August 14 - *Cymbeline*
- August 16 - *The Winter's Tale*
- August 21 - *The Tempest*
- August 23 - *Henry VIII*

6-23 Baltimore's Hippodrome Sets 2005-06 Season of Touring Shows

The newly restored and renovated Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, currently home to the national touring company of *The Lion King*, has announced a line up of touring shows for the 2005-06 season that includes four musicals and two non-musical plays:

- October 25 - November 6 - Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice's *Evita*
- November 15 - 27 - Hal Linden in the stage adaptation of the novel *Tuesdays with Morrie.*
- December 20 - January 1 - The national tour of *Hairspray.*
- January 24 - February 5 - Patrick Cassidy in Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.*
- March 7 - 19 - Twyla Tharp's dance musical to the songs of Billy Joel, *Movin' Out.*
- April 11 - 23 - Marueen McGovern recreates her Broadway performance in the musical *Little Women.*
- May 9 - 21 - Valerie Harper in the solo performer portrait of Golda Meir, *Golda's Balcony.*

6-22 Hathaway and Levine's Just Theater Covers Three Musicals & Take Me Out

The June edition of the Montgomery Community Television program *Just Theater* featuring Potomac Stages' Brad Hathaway and Channel 21's Faiga Levine will air twice a week on Channel 21, on Wednesdays at 8 pm and Fridays at 4:30 pm. The conversation will cover *The Lion King* at the Hippodrome, *Once On This Island* at the Round House in Bethesda, *Mamma Mia!* at National Theatre and one non-musical, Take Me Out at Studio Theatre. The program will be available online through streaming video to those selecting *Just Theater* from the menu at

http://64.226.56.82/videomontgomery/index.html.

6-21 Library of Congress Screens Movie Version of Meredith Willson's Classic Tonight

The series of free screenings of notable movie versions of classic musicals continues tonight with the 1962 Warner Brothers production of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* which captured Robert Preston's performance as Professor Harold Hill but used Shirley Jones instead of the Broadway original Barbara Cook in the role of Marian the Librarian. *The Music Man* opened on Broadway in 1957and ran for 1375 performances before it closed in 1961. The screening will be at 6:30 this evening in the Mary Pickford Theater. For reservations call (202) 707-5677. The theater, which seats only 60, is located in the James Madison building of the Library at the corner of First Street and Independence Avenue on Capitol Hill.

6-20 Theater Alliance Sets 2005-06 Season at H Street Playhouse

The Theater Alliance, the company which garnered ten Helen Hayes Award nominations for two 2004 shows (*Mary's Wedding* and *Boy Gets Girl*) has announced its 2005-06 season of five full productions at the H Street Playhouse as well as a two-month festival of new or guest works. The festival, to be held in April and May of next year, will include staged workshops, a piece about DC's Mayor Anthony A. Williams by DC actor Michael Anthony Williams, as well as an international "dance jam" and a puppetry company from Guadalajara, Mexico. The full productions for the season are:

- *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* - directed by Jeremy Skidmore
- *You Are Here* - a play by Canadian actor/director/playwright Daniel MacIvor featuring Jennifer Mendenhall, Michael Russotto and Kathleen Coons
- *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* -Salman Rushdie's story directed and choreographed by Kelly Parsley
- *Two Rooms* - a play by Lee Blessing which will run in repertory with the following --
- *The Monument* - the US premiere of the winner of the Canadian Governor General's Literary Award.

6-17 Free Screening of Carmen Jones Tomorrow Night

On the heels of the screening of Otto Preminger's filmed version of *Porgy and Bess* at the Library of Congress earlier this week, the National Archives is offering a free screening of his filmed version of Oscar Hammerstein II's adaptation of Bizet's opera *Carmen* on Saturday evening. Hammerstein transferred the action from Paris to America during World War II and set the action in a factory turning out parachutes for the pilots of the Army Air Corps. The musical, with driving orchestrations by Robert Russell Bennett, ran for over 500 performances on Broadway during the height of World War II. For the 1954 film, Dorothy Dandridge, who was the Bess in the film of *Porgy and Bess* played opposite Harry Belafonte. It will be shown in a new 35 mm Cinemascope print. The 7 pm screening will be in the William G. McGowan Theater in the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Reservations are required and can be made by sending an email to reservations.nwe@nara.gov. For further information call 202-501-5000.

6-16 Arlington Hosts Free Musical At Lubber Run Tonight & Tomorrow

A semi-autobiographical musical, *Life is a Musical*, by James Pentaudi, will be performed twice at the outdoor amphitheater at Lubber Run Park in Arlington. The show will be performed by Pentaudi accompanied by Patricia Little who also handled the musical arrangements for the show. The free performances will begin at 8 pm tonight and tomorrow. Lubber Run is on North Columbus Street just north of Rt. 50.

6-15 Eleven Community Theater Companies Vie In One-Act Festival

The 2005 One-Act Play Festival takes place this weekend and next with entries from community theaters from throughout the region under the auspices of the NVTA, the organization of community theater companies in Washington, Maryland and Virginia which was originally named the Northern Virginia Theatre Alliance. The event includes a total of fourteen plays on Friday and Saturday evenings and this Saturday afternoon at CenterStage in the Reston Community Center. Unlike previous festivals, plays with mature themes or adult language have not been separated from family-friendly material so there aren't specific sessions appropriate for specific audiences. A pass for all sessions costs $30 while individual sessions are $8. Judging the competition will be Helen Hayes Award judge Gene Merrall, Actress and director Marge Tischer and director Don Martin. Here are the participating companies and plays:

- Castaways Repertory Theatre - *The Perfect Son* (drama) and *Bitter Sauce* (comedy)

- Foundry Players - *Trifles* (drama)
- Hard Bargain Players - *A Game* (comedy/drama)
- Pied Piper Theatre - *Lovers* (drama) and *On The Verge* (drama)
- Prince William Little Theatre - *I'm Herbert* (comedy)
- Reston Community Players - *Harvest Moon* (comedy/drama) and *Mr. Curator's Proposal* (drama)
- Rockville Little Theatre - *Blackmail* (comedy/drama)
- Rooftop Productions - *Drive-In Date* (drama)
- Silver Spring Stage - *Perfectly Good Airplanes* (drama)
- Springfield Community Theatre - *Zero Balance* (drama)
- Tapestry Theatre Company - *The Guys* (drama)

6-14 Rarely Seen Porgy and Bess Film To Screen Tonight on Capitol Hill

The Library of Congress' series of free screenings of films continues this evening with the screening of the 1959 movie version of George Gershwin's folk opera *Porgy and Bess* which has not been re-released commercially nor made available on VHS or DVD. The film was directed by Otto Preminger and starred Sidney Poitier as Porgy, Dorothy Dandridge as Bess and Sammy Davis, Jr. as Sportin' Life. The cast also included Pearl Bailey, Diahann Carroll and Brock Peters. The screening will be at 6:30 this evening in the Mary Pickford Theater. For reservations call (202) 707-5677. The theater, which seats only 60, is located in the James Madison building of the Library at the corner of First Street and Independence Avenue on Capitol Hill.

6-13 DC Area Theater Social Group “The Ushers” Picks Shows for 2005-06

The Ushers, a social group that gathers for theater with a meal before or after the show, has set it's 15th season of great theatergoing with over two dozen shows. Group founder Joel Markowitz says that membership dues are $25 a year as well as the charges for the particular shows a member attends. The tickets to the shows are at a group rate that Markowitz negotiates with the theaters. The group also makes at least two trips to New York each year to catch the latest shows on Broadway at a group rate. For further information call 703-447-8805. Here are some of the shows included in the 2005-06 season:

- Aida - Toby's Dinner Theatre
- Caroline or Change - Studio Theatre
- Damn Yankees - Arena Stage
- Fat Pig - Studio Theatre
- Nevermore - Signature Theatre
- Poseidon - The Upside Down Musical - Audrey Herman's Spotlighters Theatre
- Steve and Idi - Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- Wicked - Kennedy Center

6-10 Audra McDonald Is ArtSpeak!'s Guest Saturday at Noon in Virginia

Four-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald will be the final guest of the season for ArtSpeak!, the free program that brings top theater celebrities to Virginia's Poe Middle School to respond to questions from host Mark Shugoll, from the audience, and also from a student from either Poe Middle School or its sister school Annandale High School. She has won Tony Awards for Best Featured Actress in a Play for *Master Class* and *A Raisin In The Sun,* and Best Featured Actress in a Musical for *Carousel* and *Ragtime*. Following in the footsteps of her co-stars from *Ragtime*, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Marin Mazie, who have each appeared in ArtSpeak! programs, she will be the guest at a special noon session tomorrow. The program is free and no reservations are required. Poe Middle School is at 7000 Cindy Lane in Annandale.

6-9 Lincoln's Last Play Presented Saturday in Indian Head

Our American Cousin, the play Abraham Lincoln was watching when John Wilkes Booth sent a bullet into his brain in 1865, will be performed in a co-production of the Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre and the New Old Theater Company as part of the River Arts Festival in Indian Head, MD on Saturday, June 11. The 8 pm performance will be at the Indian Head Village Green Pavilion, 100 Walter Thomas Road in Indian Head. The assassination of President Lincoln resulted in the closure of Ford's Theatre in Washington for a century and made the previously popular play nearly unproduceable. The New Old Theater Company which specializes in rediscovering popular theater from the eighteenth and nineteenth century teams with the Chesapeaek Bay Floating Theatre to revive the piece for one night. Tickets are $10 and can be reserved by calling 301-743-3040. A free public preview will be given at 4:45 pm.

6-8 Summer Tour of Much Ado About Nothing Begins In Frederick

The Shakespeare Project, a professional theater company based in Frederick, MD, begins its annual summer tour with a one week run at Hood College for their production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. After running Thursday - Sunday at 8 pm and Sunday at 5 pm June 10 - 18, the production moves on to Gaithersburg for a two-night stop, June 24 - 25. Additional stops include locations in Shady Side (July 23), Cumberland (July 26), Baltimore (July 29 - August 31), Lewes, DE (August 4 - 5) and Easton MD (August 6 - 7). All but the final two stops are outdoor performances. For more information, call 301-668-4090.

6-7 The Ushers' Monthly Favorite Show Award Goes To . . . Take Me Out

The theater enthusiasts who usher in the theaters in the Potomac Region, and who participate in the Ushers' Favorite Show Award program sponsored by Potomac Stages, have named as their favorite show for the month of May the Studio Theatre production of *Take Me Out*, the play by Richard Greenberg which was designated a Potomac Stages Pick because it provides "the exhilaration that comes from a superb production of a fine play." This is the third production at Studio Theatre to receive the monthly award. *Black Milk* shared the January award this year in a tie and *The Syringa Tree* had the distinction of winning the February award last year in a tie and then won the March award singly after which it was designated as the Ushers' Favorite Show of the year for 2004.

6-6 Kalbfleisch Discussion Tonight in Arlington

Signature Theatre's musical director, multiple Helen Hayes Award winner John Kalbfleisch, will be the guest at this evening's session of "From Page to Stage," a series of discussions at the Arlington Central Library exploring how specific artists contribute to specific productions at Signature. Kablfleisch is currently conducting the theater's production of *Pacific Overtures* on which he serves as Musical Director. Kalbfleisch will talk about his role in the production, the casting, rehearsing and the unique features of this particular score. Admission is free and the session begins at 7 o'clock in the Central Library's auditorium at 1015 N. Quincy Street, between Wilson Blvd and Rt. 66 in Arlington.

6-3 Potomac Stages Profiles The Rupperts of The Warehouse

The latest Potomac Region theater personalities to be featured in Potomac Stages' series of personality profiles are Molly and Paul Ruppert, owners and operators of The Warehouse Theater on 7th Street which is located in buildings that have been in their family for 120 years. Click here to read the full profile.

6-2 Shakespeare in Washington 2007 Festival To Include Many Theater Events

Yesterday, a gathering of leaders of arts organizations ranging from theater to dance and music to museums presented plans for a six month long festival of Shakespeare in 2007. While the festival will include Shakespeare-inspired works performed by the Washington National Opera (Verdi's *Macbeth*) the Washington Ballet (seven different ballets) The Kirov Ballet (Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* as staged by Lavrovsky) the American Film Institute (movies of the Bard's plays) and a number of museums, theater events will predominate. Here are the key theater events included in the announced plans, specific dates will be announced later:

- *Richard III* starring Geraint Wyn Davies, directed by Michael Kahn at The Shakespeare Theatre
- *Cymbeline* produced for the first time at The Shakespeare Theatre

- *Lone Star Love or, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Texas*, with the music of the Red Clay Ramblers, at the Folger Theatre
- *The Tempest* in a "high-tech production" by Canadian multimedia artists Michel Lemieux, Victor Pilon and Denise Guilbaut at the Kennedy Center
- Performances of scenes from Shakespeare on new sets designed in a program of the National Building Museum
- Children's programs including "The Bard" -a three part series on Shakespeare's life, writings and influence at the Kennedy Center
- An Imagination Celebration adaptation of *As You Like It* for children in the Family Theater of the Kennedy Center.
- A series of free shows on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage including performances by the Tiny Ninja Theater
- Singing Shakespeare, a cabaret of songs from Broadway musicals based on Shakespeare including *West Side Story, The Boys from Syracuse* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at the Signature Theatre
- Another visit from the Royal Shakespeare Company to the Kennedy Center with plays to be announced.

6-1 Theater J Sets Bikel & Dybbuk for 2005-06

The 2005-06 season for Theater J will include Theodore Bikel as well as Edward Gero, Naomi Jacobsen, John Lescault and Andrew Long in *The Disputation,* which will be directed by Nick Olcott. The season will also see a co-production with Synetec Theatre of a new adaptation of S. Anski's *The Dybbuk*, the return of *Betty Rules!* and the world premieres of plays by the authors of *Take Me Out*, Richard Greenberg and *Death and the Maiden,* Ariel Dorfman.

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